LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

DETAILED LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-22 (Canceled).

23. (Previously Presented) A sealing apparatus, comprising:

an elongated sealing member; and

a semi-cylindrical elongated receiver portion having two circumferential portions, a closed circumferential portion having a circumference of at least 180° and an opened circumferential portion coupled to said closed circumferential portion, wherein the opened circumferential portion comprises a central opening extending along a length of the receiver portion, the central opening providing access to an engagement aperture for receiving the sealing member;

wherein the central opening is bracketed by first and second ridges that extend along the length of the receiver portion, the opened circumferential portion further having first and second lugs that extend along the length of the elongated receiver portion, each lug having a proximal and distal end arranged outside of a plane corresponding to said closed circumferential portion, said plane bisecting the length of the receiver between the closed circumferential portion and the opened circumferential portion, the distal end of said lugs coupled to the opened circumferential portion spaced apart from the central opening and projecting generally outwardly away from the opened circumferential portion such that an indented gripping surface is provided on two sides of each of said first and second lugs, wherein on one side of said first and second lugs the indented gripping surfaces are provided between said first ridge and said first lug and between said second ridge and said second lug, and wherein on another side of said first and second lugs the indented gripping surfaces are provided between said first lug and a midpoint of the closed circumferential portion and between said second lug and the midpoint of the closed circumferential portion.

Claim 24 (Canceled).

25. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 23, wherein the elongated sealing member has a circular cross-section; and the engagement aperture of the receiver portion has an approximately circular cross-sectional shape that is configured to receive the sealing member.

26. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 23, wherein the receiver portion includes a handle that extends at least a portion of the length of the receiver portion and extends outwardly and upwardly from the receiver portion.

27. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 23, wherein the sealing member includes an opening that extends along a length of the sealing member and a lanyard that extends through the opening.

28. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 27, wherein the lanyard is further coupled to the receiver portion.

29. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 23, further comprising a flexible coupling member that couples the sealing member to the receiver portion.

30. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 23, wherein the sealing member and the receiver portion are formed of a resilient polymeric material.

31. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 30, wherein the resilient polymeric material includes a polyurethane.

32. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 23, wherein the sealing member and the receiver portion are formed of a generally flexible metallic material.

33. (Previously Presented) A sealing apparatus for sealing a bag, comprising:

a semi-cylindrical elongated receiver portion having at least one engagement aperture to receive an elongated sealing member, the receiver portion having two circumferential portions, a closed circumferential portion having a circumference of at least 180° and an opened circumferential portion coupled to said closed circumferential portion, wherein the opened circumferential portion comprises a central opening extending along a length of the circumference of the receiver portion to provide access to the engagement aperture;

wherein the central opening is bracketed by first and second ridges that extend along the length of the opened circumferential portion, the opened circumferential portion further having

first and second lugs that extend along the length of the elongated receiver portion, each lug having a proximal and distal end arranged outside of a plane corresponding to said closed circumferential portion, said plane bisecting the length of the receiver between the closed circumferential portion and the opened circumferential portion, the distal end of said lugs coupled to the opened circumferential portion spaced apart from the central opening and projecting generally outwardly away from the opened circumferential portion such that an indented gripping surface is provided on two sides of each of said first and second lugs, wherein on one side of said first and second lugs the indented gripping surface is provided between said first ridge and said first lug and between said second ridge and said second lug, and wherein on another side of said first and second lugs the indented gripping surfaces are provided between said first lug and a midpoint of the closed circumferential portion and between said second lug and the midpoint of the closed circumferential portion.

34. (Canceled).

35. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 33, wherein the elongated sealing member has a circular cross-section and the engagement aperture of the receiver portion has an approximately circular cross-sectional shape that is configured to receive the sealing member.

36. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 33, wherein the receiver portion includes a handle that extends at least a portion of the length of the receiver portion and projects outwardly and upwardly from the receiver portion.

37. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 33, wherein the sealing member includes an opening that extends along a length of the sealing member and a lanyard formed into a loop that extends through the opening.

38. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 37, wherein the lanyard is further coupled to the receiver portion.

39. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 33, further comprising a flexible coupling member that couples the sealing member to the receiver portion.

40. (Previously Presented) A method for sealing a resealable bag, the method comprising:

providing an apparatus having an elongated sealing member and a semi-cylindrical elongated receiver portion, the elongated receiver portion having at least one engagement aperture to receive the elongated sealing member and two circumferential portions, a closed circumferential portion having a circumference of at least 180° and an opened circumferential portion coupled to said closed circumferential portion, wherein the opened circumferential portion comprises a central opening extending along a length of the receiver portion to provide access to the engagement aperture, wherein the central opening is bracketed by first and second ridges that extend along the length of the opened circumferential portion, the opened circumferential portion further having first and second lugs that extend along the length of the elongated receiver portion, each lug having a proximal and distal end arranged outside of a plane corresponding to said closed circumferential portion, said plane bisecting the length of the receiver between the closed circumferential portion and the opened circumferential portion, the distal end of said lugs coupled to the opened circumferential portion spaced apart from the central opening and projecting generally outwardly away from the opened circumferential portion such that an indented gripping surface is provided on two sides of each of said first and second lugs, wherein on one side of said first and second lugs the indented gripping surface is provided between said first ridge and said first lug and between said second ridge and said second lug, and wherein on another side of said first and second lugs the indented gripping surfaces are provided between said first lug and a midpoint of the closed circumferential portion and between said second lug and the midpoint of the closed circumferential portion;

positioning a portion of the resealable bag proximate to the engagement aperture;

positioning the sealing member proximate to the portion of the resealable bag and the engagement aperture; and

pressing the sealing member into the engagement aperture of the receiver portion with the portion of the resealable bag interposed between the sealing member and the receiver portion.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, wherein the step of positioning a portion of the resealable bag proximate to the engagement aperture further comprises positioning an opening portion of the resealable bag proximate to the engagement aperture.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, wherein the step of pressing the sealing member into the engagement aperture of the receiver portion further comprises closing the resealable bag to form a hermetic seal.